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REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the consideration given the present application and for the indication that claim 2 is allowed. Claims 1-4 are pending, of which claim 1 is independent.

Claim Rejections under 35 USC §102

Claims 1 and 3-5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Itoi et al. (U.S. 5,556,072), which is commonly assigned to Fujikin Incorporated.

The present invention is directed to a controller having a valve body (1), a casing (2) fixed to the upper portion of the valve body (1), an operating rod (3) disposed in an upper inside portion of the casing (2) and movable upward and downward, a drive device (4) for moving the operating rod (3) upward and downward, and a force amplifying device (5) provided in a lower inside portion of the casing (2) for transmitting a force acting on the operating rod (3) to a valve stem (16). The force amplifying device (5) further includes a tapered member (41) extending vertically downward from the lower end of an operating rod (3), a disk member (42) provided at the upper end of a valve stem (16), and front and rear pivotal members (43 and 44) arranged between the two members (41 and 42) and opposed to each other with the tapered member (41) positioned therebetween. The pivotal

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members (43 and 44) are pivotally movable about respective pivots (45 and 46). Each of the pivotal members (43 and 44) has a plate body (43a and 44a), an upper contact face (43b and 44b) formed on an upper portion of the body and in contact with a tapered face of the tapered member (41), and a lower contact face (43c and 44c) formed on a lower portion of the body and bearing on the upper surface of the disk member (42). The lower contact face (43c and 44c) of each pivotal member is in the form of a circular-arc cam face centered about a center line positioned away from the axis of the pivot (45 and 46).

Itoi also describes a controller, but its device differs from the present invention in several important respects. For example, Itoi employs front and rear roller support members (43), each having a pair of right and left vertical plates (44) that hold roller (46) and a push roller (45) therebetween. Each of the vertical plates (44) has a circular shaft hole (47) at its upper end portion and a non-circular shaft hole (48) at its lower end portion.

By contrast, the present invention utilizes a pair of front and rear pivotal members (43, 44) having front and rear pivots (45, 46). An upper contact face (43b, 44b) is formed on an upper portion of the plate body (43a, 44a) of the front and rear pivotal members (43, 44) in bearing contact with the corresponding tapered face of the tapered member (41). Such a

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design is substantially simpler, more reliable, and less costly to manufacture than the device of Itoi.

In the Office Action, it is alleged that the term "body" is sufficiently broad to encompass more than just the plate body (43a, 44a) recited in the present claims. Without acquiescing to any ground of rejection, but merely to expedite prosecution, independent claim 1 is amended to specifically recite a plate body. This language is clearly supported by the specification as filed and raises no new issues that would require further search and/or consideration. Therefore, independent claim 1 patentably distinguishes over the prior art of record.

Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1 and 3-5 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Itoi et al. (U.S. 5,556,072) is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the anticipation rejection based on Itoi is overcome. The present application is in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested.

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To the extent necessary during prosecution, Applicants hereby request any required extension of time and hereby authorize the Commissioner to charge any required fee not otherwise provided for, including application processing, extension, and extra claims fees, to Deposit Account 01-2134.

Respectfully submitted,

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